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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

While we are extremely gratified by the lengthy and highly complimentary reviews of our recent books and the two Paris exhibitions — by Paul Horley in *RNJ* 22(2) and by Paul Bahn in *RNJ* 23(1) — we feel it is important to clarify one crucial point. While we did indeed organize the second exhibition in the Espace Electra ourselves, the one presented in the Louise Leiris Gallery (June-July 2008), which included the whole Rapanui collection of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, was entirely conceived and produced by Quentin Laurens, the director of this Gallery and of the Editions Louise Leiris. This exceptional exhibition was organised by our publisher on the occasion of the launch of our book, *Treasures of Easter Island*.

— Catherine & Michel Orliac

20 YEARS AGO IN THE RNJ



A distressing report of vandalism to one of the island's best cave paintings was reported to CONAF by Dr. Jo Anne Van Tilburg. During recent field work on Motu Nui, it was noted that cuts of up to 7 cm deep had been made at several points around the painting, apparently in an attempt to remove it intact. Flakes of stone with paint on them were also observed on the floor of the cave. It is not known when the damage was done, but

CONAF officials note that it must have occurred between last year's site inspection and July 1989.

A fire that blackened the slopes of Rano Raraku was reported to have cracked some of the *hare paenga* stones that lie around the south side of the crater.

Salvage divers from Valparaíso have been looking at debris left on the ocean floor by the [1983] wreck of the *Regent Oak*.

A group from *Surfer Magazine* was on the island for two weeks, filming surfers in action along the coast. The surfers were Brazilian champions.

MOAI SIGHTINGS

RAPANUIPHILE BARBARA HINTON called our attention to a new, EI-related product released last April on Amazon.com — “The Desktop Heads of Easter Island: They’re Watching You!” For \$6.95 you get a little box with 4 small, crude *moai* each about 3.5" (8.4 cm) in height. Also in the box is a reasonably well written 32-page perfect-bound booklet from Running Press Miniature Editions (2009; ISBN-13: 978-0762435920). The description from Amazon.com reads as follows:

For hundreds of years, the stone heads of Easter Island have sat perched on their platforms, gazing mystically out over land and sea. Now the impressive Pacific site can be viewed on a desktop near you! This kit comes with four miniature replicas of stone heads of Easter Island in various shapes and sizes. One can stare back above a computer screen like a micromanaging boss, while others act as paper-weights or mesmerize co-workers to turn away each time they reach for your candy dish. Those heads will never let a cubicle or office feel lonely again!